

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN RECOGNITION OF NATIONAL
MAMMOGRAPHY DAY AND
BREAST CANCER AWARENESS
MONTH

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, today, somewhere in this country, a woman has been diagnosed with breast cancer. There's no cure to offer her. There's no known cause to explain her condition. She's just joined a club of over 180,000 women, who have received the same terrible news from their doctor. What's even worse is that she may join another group of over 43,000 women who die from breast cancer every year. And she will likely wonder if there is anything she could have done to stop it.

And the answer is yes—women are not powerless in this fight for their lives. Over 92 percent of breast cancers can be treated with early detection and prompt treatment.

October 17 is National Mammography Day and I am proud to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 235, which recognizes the importance of mammographies in the fight against breast cancer. I want to encourage every woman across this country to become more proactive in the fight against this disease by scheduling mammograms for herself or someone she loves. The most effective way to battle breast cancer is to detect the disease in its earliest stages, when treatment is possible. Through mammogram screening, physicians can discover breast cancer up to 2 years before a woman could through self-examination. Clearly, the sooner the disease is diagnosed, the better the chance a woman has to survive.

This is an issue that's obviously important to every woman in this Nation. However, it's an issue that should be crucial to America as a whole. I've been blessed through the women in my life. I have a wonderful wife, three lovely daughters, a great daughter-in-law, and the prettiest little granddaughter any one has ever seen. It scares me to know that 1 out of 9 women in America will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. Out of these five ladies in my life, there is a chance one of them will one day become a member of the 180,000 women diagnosed with breast cancer.

So, today I call on all Americans, both men and women, to focus more attention on this deadly disease and to become more active in the fight against it. After all, virtually everyone has a mother or a sister, a wife or a daughter that he or she loves and depends on. Women are too important, too precious to this Nation for any of us to ignore one of their most recurrent killers. I know all the women in my life are to me.

TRIBUTE TO TERRY M. RYAN

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Terry M. Ryan of Little Falls, NJ, as he is very deservedly honored this evening by Wayne General Hospital.

Terry is president of Hanson & Ryan, Inc. in Totowa, NJ. He joined the agency in 1970 and is responsible for oversight of all agency operations. Terry also serves as president of Financial Services subsidiary, T.M. Ryan Financial Services, Inc. Hanson & Ryan, Inc. has been listed in Business News of New Jersey as one of the "Top 50 Insurance Brokers."

Terry attended Syracuse University and graduated from the College of Insurance with a degree in insurance and risk management.

Active in the industry throughout his career, Terry was a founder of the IANJ [Independent Insurance Agents of New Jersey] Young Agents Committee and served as its first chairman in 1974. He served IAA [Independent Insurance Agents of America] as regional director of the National YAC [Young Agents Committee] for 3 years. Terry has been a member of the Agents Advisory Council for Aetna Casualty & Surety and served as chairman. He has also been the New Jersey representative to the GPC council for Aetna and has served on GRE Insurance Group Advisory Council.

Terry has served on the executive committee of the IIAPC [Independent Insurance Agents of Passaic County]. He has received the New Jersey Department of Insurance Meritorious Service Award and IANJ's Young Agent of the Year Award.

Terry is chairman of the Insurance Committee for the Township of Little Falls and very notably is currently chairman of the Board of Wayne General Hospital. He has been active in many additional community organizations and received citations for his work in those areas. Among those organizations, he has served as a youth sports coaching program honorary trustee of the Passaic County 200 Club of which he was cofounder.

An active member of his community, Terry is currently a member of the board of directors of the Passaic Valley Rotary Club, the National Notary Association, the Little Falls Athletic Club, and an associate member of the Passaic Police Chief's Association. He is a past member of the board of directors, Passaic Valley Kiwanis, the Hamilton Club of Paterson, vice-president-elect and board member of the Passaic Valley Chamber of Commerce, board member of the American Cancer Society—Passaic County chapter, and a member of the board of directors for the Passaic County Historical Society.

Terry resides in Little Falls with his wife, Debbie and three children, Sean, Carrie, and Kristin.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Terry's family, friends, and col-

leagues, and the Township of Little Falls in recognizing Terry M. Ryan's many outstanding and invaluable contributions to the community.

A CALL FOR PRODUCT LIABILITY
REFORM

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 21, 1997

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address an issue that may soon have severe implications for our health industry. Within the next year there may be a shortage of critical medical devices on the market due to the unavailability of biomaterials. Biomaterials, such as teflon, polyurethane, and polyester yarn, are necessary components in medical devices, for hip and knee implants, pacemakers, and catheters. What makes these biomaterials special is that their biological nature will not be rejected by the immune system. Their chemical properties are specialized to fit the durability and the malleability that is needed in constructing implants, like the tiny cochlear ear implant which enhances hearing.

What has caused this short supply of biomaterials? Biomaterials suppliers are leaving the market of medical devices because of an onslaught of litigation. The suppliers of biomaterials have rarely been found liable for defects in the manufacture of a medical device. The reason is that the biomaterial seldom has anything to do with defect of the product. With so many victories, why would the biomaterials makers continue to face litigation threats? Why do plaintiffs and trial lawyers pursue innocent, though hapless, suppliers of biomaterials? Because they can. In the United States, anyone willing to pay a court filing fee can bring a lawsuit for any reason and pursue it through actual trial even with no hope of success. And while manufacturers of medical devices are relatively small and go bankrupt when forced to pay large litigation settlements, suppliers of biomaterials have deep pockets and thereby attract the voracious appetites of the major trial lawyers.

Thus, biomaterial suppliers, most of which are companies that sell a small percentage of its overall production to medical device manufacturers, are subject to litigation for products that it had no say or responsibility. Biomaterial suppliers are being litigated against for simply supplying the raw materials.

One example of the problem with litigation reaching too far in the biomaterials industry involves DuPont, a maker of synthetic materials. DuPont sold teflon to a manufacturer that made temporo mandibular joint implants. The manufacturer was sued on the grounds of tort law, where the plaintiff believed that the implant was defective. The manufacturer went bankrupt so the plaintiff held DuPont liable for the defective implant. With only about 5 cents' worth of teflon in each mandibular joint implant, DuPont was named in over 250 different

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